

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00

L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 H-02 /081 W

----- 005685

R 141007Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

CG RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4893

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY: CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. IIYTC N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELWJ, ACOM, SF

SUBJECT: CIVAIR

PANAM DROPS JOHANNESBURG FROM WEST AFRICAN RUN

1. EFFECTIVE JUNE 14, JOHANNESBURG WILL BE DROPPED FROM PANAM'S WEST AFRICAN SERVICE. THIS FOLLOWS A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS PANAM REPRESENTATIVE HAS MADE TO HIS HEADQUARTERS OVER THE PAST YEAR OR MORE REGARDING THE POLITICAL RISKS OF CONTINUING

THE SERVICE. PANAM REPRESENTATIVE ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 50 PASSENGERS PER WEEK WILL BE LOST AS A RESULT, BUT HE CONSIDERS THIS INSIGNIFICANT ALONGSIDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT PANAM'S ENTIRE SERVICE TO LAGOS MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHUT

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DOWN OVER THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION.

2. THE MATTER WAS BROUGHT TO A HEAD AFTER THE NIGHT-TIME CLOSURE
OF LAGOS AIRFIELD BEGINNING THIS FEBRUARY LED PANAM TO ROUTE
ITS NORTHBOUND FLIGHTS FROM JOHANNESBURG DIRECT
TO LAGOS INSTEAD OF VIA KINSHASA. LAGOS
PANAM REPRESENTATIVE AT THAT TIME HEARD RUMBLES OF COMING TROUBLE
WITH NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES, AND IN APRIL AT HIS RECOMMENDATION THE RUN
WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL THE KINSHASA STOP COULD BE WORKED IN AGAIN.
NOW, BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING LATENT PROBLEMS WITH NIGERIA OVER THE
SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION, PANAM SERVICE TO JOHANNESBURG IS BEING
DROPPED FROM THE WEST AFRICAN RUN ENTIRELY AND WILL BE COVERED

BY THE NEW YORK/RIO/JOHANNESBURG RUN WHICH COMMENCED OPERATION
IN FEBRUARY. PANAM WEST AFRICAN SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO RUN
TO KINSHASA, NAIROBI AND DAR-ES-SALAAM.
CROSBY

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